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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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OUR NEAL FAMILY

For Dorothy Jean Grammer
From Banus E. Neal

By Banus E. Neal, Mattoon, Ill.

August, 1960

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

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ORIGIN

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His second son was Nial or Niul who was highly educated at this University. He taught in Scythia for some time and, finally, Pharoah Cingeris of Egypt invited him to come to Egypt. He was given a large grant of land near the Red Sea and was also given, as a wife, Scota, the daughter of Pharoah Cingeris, who had found Moses as a babe in the bulrushes. He was made a high officer as Minister of Egypt and served in the same capacity as Joseph had done before him. He introduced many great improvements, including some regulation of the flow of water in the river Nile, so named after him.

When Moses and Aaron were preparing to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, Nial gave assistance and supplies to them. After the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites and the drowning of Pharoah's hosts in the Red Sea, the Egyptians turned against Nial and drove him and his family out of Egypt. They went to Crete.

Nial and Scota were the ancestral father and mother of the family now called Neal, together with many families using variations of the spelling of the name, such as O'Neal, O'Neill, Neill, Nele, Neel, Neall, Nille, Neale, etc.

Nial and Scota had a son named Gaedel or Gael who gave his name to his descendants, the Gaels. They spread over most of Northern Europe. Descendants of Nial went back to Scythia, then to Gothland, and wandered through Europe for many generations. Dea, of the 16th generation from Nial, led a colony from Scythia to Galicia in Spain. Breogan, of the 18th generation, built Brigantia or Corunna in Spain and became the King of Spain. Milesius, of the 20th generation, married another Scota, the daughter of Pharoah Nectonibus of Egypt.

About 1015 B. C., it was thought that the land of Spain was becoming too crowded with people, so the King Milesius fitted out an expedition of two galleys loaded with soldiers to look for new lands. Heber and Heremon, two sons of Milesius and Scota, were placed in command of the expedition, and Scota, their mother, accompanied them.

According to legend, the son who touched the new land first was to become its King. So, as they drew near to the land of Ireland, Heremon drew his sword and cut off his hand and threw it onto the land. This act was commemorated later by the use of the "Bloody Hand" in the family Coat of Arms. However, Heremon and Heber did rule over Ireland jointly as Kings, after conquering the Tuatha DeDanaans who were the natives of Ireland. In one of the battles with the Danaans, near Killarney, the mother Scotsa was killed in fighting as a soldier. Her grave is still marked with a large white stone.

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The descendants of Heremon and Heber were Kings, Princes and Chieftans of Ireland for the next 2600 years. The name "Nial" was given to many of them through the centuries.

The family was a prolific one and, down through the years, grew into Septs or Clans, which used the prefix Sliocht or Slut, meaning "descendant of." Thus, there were Slut Neal, Slut McNeal, Slut O'Neill, Slut Hugh Bries, Slut Brian Boy, Slut Kellies or O'Kelleys, etc.

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I remember when I was a youngster, my Grandfather told me, jokingly, that we were O'Neals in Ireland, but when we crossed the ocean the "O" was washed out. But, I have not been able to trace any generation in which our ancestors have used the "O." In the early days, a change in spelling Nial to Neal would be an easy and natural one. So, unless further study of our genealogy would prove otherwise, I still will believe that our ancestors have been named Neal for over 2500 years.

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MIGRATIONS OF THE FAMILY

Henry and Sarah Neal had three children. The first was named Ann. She married Benjamin Hilton. Their second child was William who was the grandfather of my Grandfather Neal. The third child was Hannah who married James Pyle. The records of the Gadsbury Meeting show that William Neal, son of Henry and Sarah Neal, was married on September 24, 1765, to Rachael Leonard, daughter of George and Lydia Leonard of the County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The marriage notice was signed William and Rachael Neal and was also signed by the witnesses, Henry Neal, Robert Neal, and James Neal.

William and Rachael Neal had six children, George, Henry, William, Benjamin, James, and Mahlon. Henry was the father of my Grandfather Mahlon Neal. I have found no record of how long William and Rachael lived in Pennsylvania, but it is certain that they moved to Virginia and became members of the Goose Creek Monthly Meeting at Lincoln in Loudon County. On January 28, 1788, William, Rachael and children transferred from Goose Creek Monthly Meeting to Cane Creek Monthly Meeting in Orange County, North Carolina. In 1792, the family is recorded as members of the Westfield Monthly Meeting in North Carolina. A history of Quakers of the Bush River Church at Newberry, South Carolina, indicates that the family were there for awhile, but did not stay long. On December 26, 1795, George, Henry, William, Benjamin, James, and Mahlon Neal became members of the New Hope Monthly Meeting, Washington County, Tennessee. On February 27, 1796, the father and mother, William and Rachael, became members of the New Hope Church.

On July 12, 1797, Henry Neal, the father of my Grandfather Mahlon Neal, was married to his first wife, Rachael Iddings. They had three children, Benjamin, born September 29, 1798; Phoebe, born March 1, 1800; and William, born February 5, 1802. Rachael, the wife, died March 26, 1802. On April 11, 1804, Henry married his second wife, Rebecca Pickering. They had four daughters, Mary, Esther, Rachael and Elizabeth.

In the Fall of 1805, three brothers, Henry, William and James Neal, with their families, moved to Miami County, Ohio, near

Ludlow Falls. They first allied themselves with the Miami Monthly Meeting, but later helped to organize the Westbranch Quaker Church. Ancestors and relatives of Herbert Hoover were members of this Church before they moved to Iowa, where they helped to establish another Church called West Branch. Herbert Hoover was born at West Branch, Iowa.

William Neal became a Quaker preacher and was one of the influential members of the West Branch and other Quaker Churches in that part of Ohio. Some of his descendants now live in Columbus, Ohio.

Henry Neal's second wife, Rebecca, died after the birth of her fourth child, and later he married his third wife, Mary Duncan. Henry and Mary had four children, John, born 1816; Sarah Ann; Mahlon, my Grandfather, born 1820; and Thomas Coppock.

When Grandfather Mahlon Neal was about twelve years of age, his father Henry died and he was taken into the home of his oldest half-brother Benjamin. He lived with and worked for Benjamin for ten years. Benjamin had bought from the Government, during President Tyler's administration, 80 acres of land in Clay County, Indiana, near Jasonville. He gave this land to Grandfather Mahlon for his services above his keep during the years Mahlon had worked for him. In the Fall of 1842, Mahlon went to this land and built a log cabin. On its completion, he returned to Ohio, and on January 5, 1843, he was married to Mary Ann Love. Her older sister Eliza Love had, in 1837, married Mahlon's older brother John and they had previously moved to Clay County, Indiana, and lived near Mahlon's new home. Mahlon and Mary Ann lived the balance of their days on this land. There was a great deal of T. B. in the family. Five, including my father, passed on from the disease, which was very prevalent in those days.

THE RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF MAHLON NEAL
AS TAKEN FROM HIS BIBLE

<u>Mahlon Neal</u>	Born August 30, 1820
<u>Mary Ann Love</u>	" October 16, 1824
(first wife)	

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Mary Ann Neal	" March 22, 1849	
Mahlon Robert Neal	" February 7, 1851	-our Father (Banus Neal)
Barbara Mahala Neal	" November 23, 1852	-mother of David Pucket
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John Brown Neal	"	March 28, 1857	-father of Edgar and Everett Neal
Eliza Isabel Neal	"	February 15, 1859	
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William Alanzo Neal	"	March 12, 1864	

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Florence May Neal	"	July 28, 1880	-married C. L. Ellings- worth
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Mahlon Neal and Mary Ann Love were married January 5, 1843

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THE STORY OF OUR FATHER AND MOTHER

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One of the Professors at this, a privately owned Academy, was John T. Hays. He was the father of Will Hays of Sullivan, Indiana, who became the National Chairman of the Republican Party for the Harding campaign; Postmaster General under Harding; and later, the head of the Movie Producers Organization in Hollywood, California.

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On August 1, 1878, I arrived, and on January 29, 1881, Herman was born.

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Mother had three brothers, Sylvester, Mortimer and Jasper, all lawyers living in Jacksboro, Texas. As the climate there was considered good for lung trouble, Father, Mother and we boys went down there for the Fall and Winter of 1884. We came back to Jasonville in the Spring, and that Fall, Father went alone out to Colorado, as that location was then supposed to be good for T. B. patients. He did not improve and came back home after about three months and died in April of 1886. He was buried in the Union Church Cemetery at Jasonville.

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After the death of our Mother in December, 1902, we moved Father's remains, together with the remains of Alma, an infant sister, (who lived only a few days after birth in March, 1886) to Highland Lawn Cemetery at Terre Haute, where Mother had been placed. They are together there.

THE STORY OF HERMAN AND MYSELF

After the death of our Father in 1886, we continued to live at Jasonville, until the Summer of 1890, when we sold our 50 acres of land with its log house and the house and lot in Jasonville for about \$1500.00. We loaded up all of our household furniture, dishes, and stoves in one farm wagon and moved to Farmersburg, Indiana, where we could be near Mother's folks there and have the advantage of better schools. There, we began our business careers. I was twelve years old and Herman nearly ten. Herman secured the agency for the Toledo Blade, a weekly newspaper published in Toledo, Ohio, and sold it on the streets on Saturdays. George Heap, a hardware merchant there, arranged for me to be the agent of the Terre Haute Express, a morning daily paper that came down from Terre Haute on an early morning train. I developed some twelve or fifteen customers to whom I delivered the papers every morning. For some time, Mother ran a millinery shop. I worked in a bakery shop and restaurant of evenings, Saturdays and vacations.

We finished the Eighth Grade of the Farmersburg School, I taking an extra year until Herman graduated. During the Summer of 1895, I worked on the farm of a cousin for three months and earned a total of \$25.00 and my board. That Fall, we moved to Terre Haute to enter the Terre Haute High School.

As we were both "experienced" newspaper men, we both secured morning and evening newspaper routes, quickly, and with these and various other jobs during vacations, we were able to make our modest living expenses all of the time we were in High School.

In January of 1899, before we would graduate in June, Mother, who had had a slow infection of T. B. for several years, became worse, and her doctor advised that we should go South to Jacksboro, Texas, where two of her brothers lived. Herman and Mother went at once. I stayed to pack our clothes, dishes and some furniture, shipped them, and followed.

Our Cousin Oliver Stark and Uncle Sylvester Stark, a successful lawyer and judge, owned a modest department store in Jacksboro, so both of us were put to work in the store for a salary of \$20.00 per month, each. Herman was in the Grocery Department and I was the Bookkeeper and Clerk in the Dry Goods and Shoes Department. We lived there about fifteen months. Mother did not improve, was homesick for Indiana, and could see no future in Texas, at that time, for Herman and me. So, in April of 1900, I went back to Terre Haute, to see if I could get a job. In a few days, I secured employment as foreman of a gang that unloaded and checked carloads of materials received at the plant of American Car & Foundry Company, who built railroad cars at Terre Haute. My salary was \$1.25 per day for ten hours' work, six days per week. Mother and Herman came back to Terre Haute a month later.

The Neal Store at Jasonville had been customers of Hulman & Co., wholesale grocers at Terre Haute for over 30 years, so

Herman used the Neal name and his grocery experience in Texas and secured a job with Hulman & Co. Mother was not able to keep house, so we lived in boarding houses with rooms. We finally secured rooms and board with Mrs. E. M. Smith at 530 South Seventh Street, whose daughter Grace was the wife of Anton Hulman of the grocery company.

Mother continued to fail in health and passed away December, 1902, and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute. She had finished her task that Father's early death had imposed on her of raising Herman and me to manhood. It was her ambition for us and her planning that gave us a fairly adequate High School education and the desire to be something more than mediocre.

From the beginning of our newspaper days in Farmersburg, until Mother's death, we boys had each made all the money we could and put it in the family pot. We decided to continue that practice. All wages of each, and all money coming in, went to that account, and everything that we spent for living, pleasure or investments came out of the joint account. Hulman & Co., soon put Herman out on the road as a grocery salesman, and I was advanced to Paymaster of the American Car & Foundry Co. Our earnings were increased, and we were able to begin saving.

We continued to live with the Smith family. Mrs. Smith's daughter Birdella married a young lawyer Charles C. Whitlock.

In the Spring of 1904, a dreamer, whose name I have forgotten, came to Whitlock and suggested that he help him to form a company to develop a gravel pit at Silverwood, Indiana, on the Clover Leaf Railroad. The dreamer was to put in \$250.00; and Whitlock and James H. Swango, \$250.00 each; Herman and I, \$250.00. The dreamer was to run the business. He failed to pay his money into the company and, after a couple of months, we came to realize that he was all talk and no work. So Herman and I put up another \$250.00 to take over his share. To save our \$500.00 investment we had to take over the management and go to work.

Previously, I had resigned as Paymaster of the American Car & Foundry Co. in June, 1903, and had taken a job of selling coal in carload lots to factories, coal dealers, etc. in Indiana and Illinois. I was working for our Cousin Elmer E. Neal, who was the principal owner of two coal mines near Linton, Indiana. I was on the road from Mondays through Fridays, getting back home in Terre Haute on Friday nights. So I used Saturdays and Sundays to take the management of the gravel business. There was a three months' miners strike that Spring that closed all Indiana mines, so I used that time to get the gravel business started in producing and selling gravel.

In 1907, Herman was made Manager of the branch grocery house of Hulman & Co. at Mattoon, Illinois; however, he continued to spend the weekends in Terre Haute.

In 1910, the Indian Creek Coal & Mining Co. was formed

by Elmer E. Neal and Ed Logsdon to open the Indian Creek mine at Bicknell, Indiana. We bought \$5000.00 worth of stock in the company, mostly with borrowed money. They made me Sales Manager at a salary of \$250.00 per month. The office of the company was in Indianapolis, so I moved over there in the Fall of 1910.

By that time, we had purchased all of the stock of the Silverwood Sand & Gravel Co., so Herman moved to Mattoon, and we moved the Gravel Co. office there, and Herman took charge of it in addition to his regular job with Hulman & Co.

In 1916, we had developed the gravel business to the point that Herman could quit Hulman & Co., and he devoted all of his time to it until his death in 1930.

At Silverwood, in 1904, we started out loading sand and gravel into cars with wheelbarrows and hand shovels. We declared a few small dividends during the first five years, but from then on the requirements for increased mechanization, together with our desire to expand our plants and territory, made it necessary that we use all of our operating profits, the dividends we received from our stock in the coal mines, as well as all the money we could borrow on our assets. No further dividends were paid by the gravel company until 1928 and 1929.

We built a second plant at Attica; a third at Covington; and a fourth at Palestine, Illinois. We bought a fifth plant at Summit Grove. In 1924, we bought outright the plants of Carmichael Gravel Co. at Attica and Wolcottville. We then bought a plant of the Kuert Gravel Co. at Milford, Indiana, and in 1928, a plant at Monroe, Louisiana.

In the meantime, our investment in the Indian Creek Coal & Mining Co. in 1910 had turned out very well. The mine produced good coal, cheaply, as the mining conditions - roof and thickness of coal vein - were good. In 1913, the mine held the World's record of producing some 3100 tons of coal in one eight-hour shift. Good dividends were paid regularly. About 1915, the Company bought the two mines of S. W. Little & Co. on the E. & I. Railroad near Petersburg, Indiana. The three mines produced 125 cars of coal per day. In 1922, the Indian Creek mine was merged with two mines of the American Coal Co. and one mine of the Oliphant Johnson Coal Co., all near Bicknell, Indiana, to form the Knox Consolidated Coal Company. We received stock in the Knox Co. for our interest in the Indian Creek Co.

Herman, Elmer Neal, and I then purchased the two mines near Petersburg from the Indian Creek for the amount of \$200,000.00 to be paid with bonds. I was made President and managed the mines and the Company, which we named Neal Coal Company. Our profits were used to pay on the bonds; however, I drew a salary of \$12,000.00 per year. Both mines were of some age, and I soon abandoned the smaller and higher cost mine. The other, we operated until 1928, when, during a vicious miners strike, the mine tibble was burned to the ground, presumably by one or two radical men. We had a block of 600 acres about a mile from the burned

tipple, which we leased to the Ingle Coal Co. of Evansville, who paid a royalty to us for the coal they worked out. We collected the insurance on the tipple, sold the other assets and paid the bond holders. Our only personal profit in this deal was seven years' salary to me.

In 1916, a Wm. B. Smith of Indianapolis, and I bought a small mine, Riverview Coal Co., near Washington, Indiana, which we operated for four years and sold at a very nice profit.

In 1926, we bought from Bradford Brothers a moulding sand plant which produced foundry sands. We formed the Hoosier Moulding Sand. Co. I operated this until about 1940, when foundries generally began using synthetic sands instead of naturally bonded foundry sands, which materially reduced the tonnage we could sell. Our office was in Indianapolis, until I moved to Mattoon, and we moved the office there. We liquidated this business in 1940, with a small profit.

Our stock in the Knox Consolidated Coal Co. turned out to be a very satisfactory investment. This company operated from 1922 to 1950. They worked out three mines and sold the fourth one in 1948. The advent of Diesel engines on the railroads and the increased use of oil and natural gas for heating and power reduced the market for coal, so it was decided to liquidate the business and distribute the funds to the stockholders. So came the end of 47 years of activities in the mining and merchandising of coal.

On March 3, 1930, Herman passed away from heart trouble. I came to Mattoon at once to take over the management of the Gravel Co. Hazel and our children moved to Mattoon in August of 1930.

Shortly before Herman passed away in 1930, we discussed our purchase of the gravel plant at Monroe, Louisiana, and decided it was a bad mistake and that we should shut the plant down, sell the equipment for whatever we could and take our loss before it became larger. So that was my first action after coming to Mattoon to take charge of the business. The loss was a colossal one and came at a bad time for us.

The Depression of 1930 had hit the whole country. Business was bad and we owed a great deal of money on bonds of the Company and money borrowed from banks. The plant at Milford, Indiana, purchased from John Kuert, also became hopeless. We shut it down and took another bad loss there. During the next three years, we abandoned Summit Grove and Wolcottville and made a sale of the Palestine plant. We continued operating our best plants at Attica, Covington and Cayuga and finished paying all of our bonds and bank loans in 1952.

I was 75 years old on August 1, 1953, so in October of that year we sold the capital stock of the Neal Gravel Co. to the Interstate Gravel Co. at Covington. They, since that time, have worked out the deposits at Cayuga and Covington and abandoned those plants. They have made major improvements in equipment at a large capital investment at the Attica plant, and the deposit

there should last for many years. It is still being operated as the Neal Gravel Company.

The sale of the Neal Gravel stock in 1953 ended our active business careers of 31 years for Herman and 54 years for me. We both have enjoyed our business activities in which we have met hundreds of people, most of whose friendship and respect I hope we have been able to maintain. We made quite a little money and lost quite a little by mistake, which is a rather normal course of most businessmen. At least we have been able to support our families, raise and give a college education to all seven of you children. The recent years indicate that all of you are now quite capable of taking care of yourselves and your children. I am sure this was a pleasure to Louise, as it is to Hazel and myself.

So now we come to the end of my story of the Neals.

-end-

THE LOVE-HASTINGS, STARK, and WELCH FAMILIES

These families have entered your ancestry through marriage to Neals. My information about them is very incomplete, but I hope it will be interesting to you to read what I have been able to learn about them.

Our Grandmother Neal, before she was married to Grandfather Neal in 1843, was Mary Ann Love. She, her older sister Elizabeth, and her brother James Love were orphan children living in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A bachelor Uncle, Robert Hastings, brought them from Philadelphia to Miami County, Ohio, near Ludlow Falls. He bought some land and made a home for them there. They were Quakers and met the Neal boys there. Eliza married John Neal, Grandfather's older brother, in Ohio, July 20, 1837, and they moved to Clay County, Indiana, just north of Jasonville. Land Records show that Robert Hastings bought a tract of land adjoining Grandfather's land in Clay County direct from the Government during Tyler's administration. He either gave or sold this land to Grandfather and Mary Ann as it became a part of their farm.

The Hastings came to Philadelphia and were relatives of Warren Hastings who was the first British Governor General of India about the time of the American Revolution. History records that he was impeached for some activity in India, but he was acquitted. A Hastings came from Denmark in 893 A. D., and the family were of the Nobility and prominent in English History and Politics for more than 800 years. In London, I saw an historic marker near the Tower of London, marking the spot where a Lord Hastings was beheaded during the reign of Edward IV. It seems that he was an influential member of the King's Court, but may have been a little rough in his tactics, and some other members of the Court prevailed on the King to eliminate him. Later, another Hastings was married to a Duchess in the Royal Family.

THE STARK FAMILY

Soon after our Father graduated from the Law School of Indiana University in 1875, he and our Mother, Elizabeth Caroline Stark, were married. She was the daughter of John Stark and Sarah Ann Welch Stark and was born April 3, 1851, at the Stark home about two miles north of Farmersburg.

The name Stark is of Germanic origin and meant "strong." In the early days, the people of that name were found in North Europe, England and Scotland. Our branch emigrated from England to New Hampshire.

In the General Stark Park, Manchester, New Hampshire, is a burial ground which gives the earliest record of our Stark line. Archibald Stark, born 1728, died 1822. Elizabeth Page, his wife, born 1734, died 1794.

General John Stark was in command of the Colonial troops that defeated the British at the Battle of Bennington in the Revolutionary War. He is credited with saying that they would beat the British on that day or "Molly Stark would be a widow."

Gen. John Stark and his wife had eight children, the youngest of whom was Benjamin Franklin Stark who was born in 1777 and died in 1812. Our Grandfather John Stark was the son of Benjamin Franklin Stark and was born April 27, 1811, and died at the Stark homeplace near Pimento, Indiana, on March 6, 1874.

General John and his son Major Caleb Stark, for their services in the Revolutionary War, received grants of some one thousand or more acres of land near Newcomerstown in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Major Caleb came out to Ohio to look after this land and died there in 1838.

Grandfather John Stark was said to have come from Ohio to Indiana, previous to 1830. One or two other Stark families emigrated from Ohio to Indiana about the same time. The mother of Everett Sanders was a Stark and a near relative of Grandfather. Grandfather John Stark was married on April 3, 1834, to Sarah Ann Welch who was born in Preble County, Ohio, January 10, 1815. They were both living in Vigo County, Indiana, at the time.

There is an interesting story about her Grandfather John Welch. About 1750, or a little later, his father, mother, and he, then a small child, lived in Wales. They decided to come to America and embarked on a sailing vessel of that time. It usually took from three to four months for those small vessels to cross the ocean. On the way over, both the father and mother died. Ship records then were very meager and nothing seemed to be known of the family, except that they had come from Wales. The boy was very small, so the other passengers called him "Johnny Welch." Some family took care of him and he grew to manhood with that name. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving under General Washington's immediate command.

After the War, he settled in Maryland, later moved to Ohio, and died there. He was married to Sarah Sutton. They had two sons, William and John who was born October 3, 1788. These two sons lived in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, then moved to Preble County, Ohio, and on to Vigo County, Indiana, in 1818.

This John Welch was married to Mary Kester in Ohio, in 1810, and moved to Vigo County, Indiana, in 1818. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. John and Mary had twelve children, one of whom was Sarah Ann Welch, our Grandmother Stark. She was born in Preble County, Ohio, on January 10, 1815. She died on October 19, 1894, at the old Stark home near Pimento, Indiana.

Grandfather John Stark was born in Ohio, April 27, 1811, and passed away March 6, 1874, twenty years before Grandmother. Their home was a typical pioneer one of the day. The living room was heated by a large fireplace in which they burned logs. The kitchen, which also served as the dining room, was heated by a

wood burning stove. A "parlor," one bedroom downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs all had no heat. In cold weather, they would heat bricks and wrap them with cloths to warm up the beds. The well had a long pole "sweep" to help lift the water out of the well in a wooden bucket. I can still see the ash hopper where they placed the ashes to make the lye they used in making their soap; and Grandmother, a small old lady, sitting in a rocking chair and reading her Bible. After moving to Farmersburg, we were near and spent many days there.

Grandfather and Grandmother Stark had eleven children, as follows:-

Henry Arnold Stark, who became a successful merchant and businessman at Streator, Illinois.

Benjamin Stark, a soldier in the Civil War, who died in New Orleans in 1863.

Mary Jane, married a man named Blair and moved to Casey, Illinois. After her husband's death, she, with her son George and daughter Mabel, moved to the Stark homeplace and took care of Grandmother Stark until her death. George ran the farm.

Sarah Ellen, married Tobias Gaskins, died near Jacksboro, Texas.

John Wesley, moved to Jacksboro, Texas, and was the father of Oliver Stark for whom Herman and I worked in his store during the year we were in Texas.

Nancy Ann, married George Huntwork. After his death, she, a son Elmer and a daughter Edith, moved to Arcadia, a suburb of Los Angeles, California.

Sylvester Stark, the first of the Starks to go to Jacksboro, Texas. He was a successful lawyer, judge, and was a partner in the Stark store where Herman and I worked. His son, S. V. Stark, is now President of the Bank there.

Elizabeth Caroline, our Mother.

Mortimer, a lawyer at Jacksboro, and father of Harry, Mahlon, Henry and Bessie Stark.

Maletis, husband of Aunt Tat, was an insurance man, photographer in Indianapolis, and worked for us in the gravel business beginning about 1910. He helped us to build the gravel plant at Attica, and later came to the office in Mattoon. He died in Mattoon, about 1912.

Jasper M. Stark, a lawyer in Jacksboro, partner in the Stark store there. Later, he moved to Colorado. He had a son whom he named Clyde Banus after me.

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FINIS

This story of mine is an attempt to record for you children, Herman's and mine, such information of the Neal Family as I have been able to learn from history, the records of the Quaker Church, and to remember from my own personal knowledge.

In it is no attempt to record any of the genealogy of the Batty family of Hazel's or the Craig family of Louise's. I do not know how to even make a start on that task, so I hope that someone else can do that for you.

Nowadays, so many children know little of their families beyond their Grandparents, and many hardly know of them.

A certain pride in your origin and family may help through some of the rough spots of life. At least it has helped me. This pride I am now trying to bequeath to you.

Through the Stark and John Welch families you and your daughters can qualify for the D.A.R.

The Neal Family is a large one and is scattered all over the United States. If you will count the names of Neal in the telephone directory of places you may visit, you will be surprised at the number of them. And most of them are people you would enjoy meeting.

It has been a pleasant task to collect this information and to write it out for you. I hope you will enjoy the story and pass it on to your children.

--Banus Eldon Neal

BEN:msm

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